

Legion Good Outfit Says Disabled Vet

"It sure pays to join a good outfit," writes a disabled veteran from his bed in a ward at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital. "I appreciate what you have done for me, for by joining the Legion I got my pension back again. Besides, they were only going to give me 20 per cent disability and by turning my application over to you, you helped me get 40 per cent. I'm going to be out a day soon on a pass and I am coming to thank you."

This is a portion of a letter of appreciation sent to the American Legion Post in Torrance, and now tacked on the Legion bulletin board of the hall at 1109 Border Ave.—a meeting place built by Legion veterans themselves, which they proudly boast paid for.

The young veteran who wrote the letter knew about the American Legion, but according to the records, thousands of veteran survivors in the United States are eligible for benefits and do not know it. Congress is in a continuous process of changing and extending these rights and only specialists in the field, like American Legion officials, can keep abreast of the statutes, regulations, and procedures involving veteran benefits.

In North Carolina, for instance, the aging widow of a lighthouse keeper was in dire need of help. Her husband had never served in uniform. But upon investigation, it was found that her 32-year-old son had died on a battlefield in France, and she was entitled to a Federal payment of \$60 a month as a dependent parent of a veteran who had died of service-connected causes.

James Caldwell, state veterans commission director and former Legion state adjutant in a two-year survey in North Carolina alone discovered 3000 beneficiaries—widows, orphans and dependent parents, who were fully unaware of the rated cash benefits under the federal laws. It was estimated that if North Carolina is typical, a drive across the nation would uncover approximately 110,000 other surviving dependents of veterans who do not realize they are entitled to monthly payments by a grateful Uncle Sam and nation.

The American Legion is by far the largest veterans service organization in this country. There are 3,000,000 male members and 1,000,000 women in the Auxiliary. There are 400 members in Torrance, making the Legion one of the largest organizations in town.

The local officers are Gordon Arnold, commander; Robert Ernst, vice-commander; Clark Morris, second vice-commander; Vernon Coll, service officer; Padly Ryan, chaplain; Benny Kidner, adjutant; Roland Grover, finance officer; and Major Sells, club steward.

An organization soon to come into being will be called the Sons of American Legionnaires. The National American Legion was formed in 1921. Local veterans banded together in Torrance in 1923 and Wallace Post, president of the Torrance National Bank, was the first commander. The Torrance charter was granted in 1923 and the city presented the Legion post with the square of land flanked by business streets. The Torrance National Bank, this square holds the standard for the large Legion flag and pole.

The local Post honors the name of Bert S. Crossland, a former member of the famous 91st Division of World War I who was the first Torrance man to lose his life in that conflict. He died in action in Belgium November, 1917. Many other Torrance men who have since sacrificed their lives in other wars, are listed on a plaque in front of the City Hall.

The local American Legion Post is also a service organization. When the need arises, members pay rent, send groceries and clothing to needy families of servicemen. They visit the hospitals with magazines, cigars, and help the nurses push bedridden veterans up closer to see movies and live shows. The service they perform in raising disability claims has previously been mentioned.

Before the 40th Division departed for Korea, the local Legionnaires gave a dinner in honor of its soldiers. Another dinner was given in honor of Cpl. Danny Arellano, recently-released prisoner of the Korean War. The Post donated a flag to the Boy Scouts and on Oct. 30 will stage a Halloween dance to raise money to buy wheelchairs for helpless servicemen.

Catholic Daughters Aim For Community Welfare 'Serve Community' Slogan

Organized in Torrance in 1948, Court St. Catherine, Chapter 1378 of the Catholic Daughters of America has a broad program of community welfare.

Among the projects sponsored by this group are the sending of Care Packages, the collection and shipment of hundreds of pounds of clothing to the war-stricken people of Korea, monthly visits to the Harbor General Hospital to visit the sick and distribute magazines and cook-ies and contribute to the distribution of funds to the Teresita Pines Camp for Girls.

Work in raising Community Chest funds, and others for the aid in Community Defense and sustaining a Mobile unit are other activities of the year. Each year a scholarship is given to a deserving student.

Officers for the 1953-54 period are Mrs. John (Martha) Gitscher, other grand regent; Mrs. Robert (Regina) Allred, vice-grand regent; Mrs. William (Eileen) Hardesty, prophetess; Mrs. Lawrence (Aurora) Derouin, financial secretary; Mrs. William (Kay) Garity, historian; Mrs. Raymond (Ludelle) Rogers, treasurer; Mrs. Francis (Margaret) Cavanaugh, monitor; Mrs. Joseph (Marian) Turkmany, sentinel; Mrs. Vincent (Barbara) Hobson, lecturer; and Mrs. Gerald (Alice) Levy, organist.

Women on the Board of Trustees are: Mrs. Don (Marian) Cowden, Mrs. Lyle (Evelyn) O'Hara, Mrs. John (Marguerite) Melville, Mrs. Frank (Muriel) Gately, Mrs. Joseph (Anne) MacDonald and Mrs. Leonard (Cecilia) Young.

'Help Ourselves' Is Slogan Of South City Association

New home owners in the various multiplying real estate tracts in and near Torrance are becoming increasingly aware of the advantages of working together for community betterment.

In line with this idea, families in the new tracts of the Kettler Knolls district met in 1950 to form the South Torrance Civic Association to discuss benefits for their area.

As the group grew in membership, problems of obtaining street lights, of changing some street names, and other requests were taken to City Manager George Stevens.

V. J. Fowler now heads the association, composed of 50 members, while Mrs. Clarence Alonco is secretary. Pamphlets are printed and distributed to the newer purchasers, pointing out the ad-

Lioness Club Born in '47

To unite the wives and members of the Lions Club in understanding and friendship, the Lionesses Club was formed August 28, 1947 at a dinner meeting at Daniel's Cafe.

Bernice Moshos was appointed acting chairman and the following ladies were present at this initial gathering: Margaret Gotta, Hazel Gotta, Charlotte Ritz, Edna Ridgeway, Jeanne Olson, Sara Isen, Kay Jakubowski, Mary Ellen DeVore, Estelle Ewalt, Helen Lowry and Ruth Greene.

Mrs. Ritchie was elected president at that meeting, while named to assist her were James Ewalt, first vice-president; Ridgeway, second vice-president; DeVore, secretary; Davis Cook, treasurer; Jakubowski, hair puller; and Lowry, bulletin editor.

The officers for 1953 are: Madeline Ruth Peterson, president; Beth McTea, first vice-president; Grace Osborne, second vice-president; Ruby Bowman, secretary; Isen, treasurer; Gwen Boren, hair puller; Mary Spring, bulletin editor; and Jakubowski, assistant editor.

P. V. Men Have Breakfast Club

Some 250 enterprising early-risers men who make up the Palos Verdes Breakfast Club, gather at 8 o'clock on Saturday mornings for breakfast at the Palos Verdes Country Club.

The Breakfast Clubbers organized 11 years ago, and most of the original members still attend the early morning get-togethers, followed by golf or home gardening chores. Any businessman living or working in the Palos Verdes School District, in Rolling Hills, Portuguese Bend, or East Field may belong.

L. N. Gill is president of the club, while other officers are Charles Holmes, vice-president; Malin Wing, secretary; and Robert Tucker, treasurer.

HAMPTON PLAYERS BUSY WITH SEVENTH SHOW

Gathering informally in a private home in the Hollywood Riviera district during January 1951, the organization now known as the Hampton Players was born. This art group has been growing in numbers as well as in the quality of its productions ever since.

From its inception, the group has been singularly fortunate in having a very fine director, Bob Farnsworth, whose professional experience has been invaluable. His tireless efforts, often working with very raw material, have brought results that seemed impossible even to the most enthusiastic members at times.

The group is now launched on its seventh production, "Morning's at Seven," a delightful comedy by Paul Osborn about some very ordinary elderly people whose actions are sometimes quite extraordinary, and whose charm lies in the fact that they are all totally unaware that they are the least bit funny. It represents a challenge to the group in that nearly all the characters are in their late sixties, and the Hampton Players run more to the "thirtysix" age bracket.

In the past some of the Hampton productions have been "The Silver Cord," "The Bess and the Flowers," "Guest in the House," "The Glass Mountain," "Papa is All" and "The Two Mrs. Carralls." The shows have always been warmly received and the comment often made that they are comparable to professional performances. One set plays have been put on from time to time for various service clubs, and the group

fit of new members and those who wish to learn more about little theater work. The membership is always open to the public, dues being a modest \$8 a year. Meetings are generally held on the third Monday each month at El Retiro Park Clubhouse in Hollywood Riviera. Mrs. Helen Ferrel, the president, is always happy to hear from prospective members and further information can be obtained by calling her at FRontier 5-2371.



G. Arnold



Mrs. Gitscher



A. Martin



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LUTHERAN LADIES AID MISSIONS

Women's Missionary Society of the First Lutheran Church was founded to do missionary work in various fields including India, New Guinea, Mexico, and also the Home Mission fields. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall of the church.

Mrs. McCabe All funds for these charities are contributed voluntarily and gathered in various ways. Some of them come from the Thankoffering Boxes, into which members place coins regularly, others are derived from the purchasing of life membership pins and a special Mother's Day offering for the work in India. One of the special events of the year is the Mother and Daughter Banquet, proceeds of which are used to educate a native boy of India to work as a missionary.

The Women's Society of the First Lutheran Church was organized January 14, 1926 at the home of Mrs. H. Chandler, 2211 Alhambra Ave. Mrs. Charles Mearns, one of the present members, is a daughter of Mrs. Chandler.

The officers now are Mrs. Marvin McCabe, president; Mrs. Stuart Phillips, vice-president; Mrs. Royal Friedly, secretary; Mrs. Walter Tonner, treasurer and Miss Emma Wenske, corresponding secretary.

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